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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Decrease in Twelve Metro Areas

Much of Downstate still suffering job losses

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	July 2016	July 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.2%	5.2%	0.0
Carbondale-Marion	6.0%	6.2%	-0.2
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.5%	-0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.6%	6.2%	-0.6
Danville	7.1%	7.4%	-0.3
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.4%	0.2
Decatur	6.7%	7.8%	-1.1
Elgin	5.1%	5.8%	-0.7
Kankakee	6.1%	6.8%	-0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5
Peoria	6.3%	6.8%	-0.5
Rockford	6.2%	7.8%	-1.6
Springfield	4.7%	5.3%	-0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.7%	6.4%	-0.7
Illinois Statewide	5.6%	6.2%	-0.6

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Twelve of Illinois' metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate and eight of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

"Our job growth rate is still half that of the rest of the country," said IDES Director Jeff Mays. "Most of our job growth is concentrated primarily in the northeast corner of the state while downstate job growth continues to lag."

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Elgin (+2.1 percent, +5,300), Rockford (+1.9 percent, +2,900), and Lake-Kenosha (+1.6 percent, +6,800). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.2 percent or +44,900). Illinois businesses lost jobs in five metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-2.5 percent, -1,400), the Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), and Decatur (-1.5 percent, -800). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were:

Retail Trade (nine of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (nine of 14), Education and Health Services (eight of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14), and Government (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2016 with July 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.6 percent in July 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in July 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits. 660**16

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2016

Metropolitan Area	July 2016*	July 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	91,500	92,800	-1,300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,400	56,800	-1,400
Champaign-Urbana MSA	106,500	105,000	500
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,726,800	3,681,900	44,900
Danville MSA	29,200	29,100	100
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	181,100	185,300	-4,200
Decatur MSA	51,000	51,800	-800
Elgin Metro Division	261,200	255,900	5,300
Kankakee MSA	44,300	44,300	-0-
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	421,000	414,200	6,800
Peoria MSA	178,000	179,100	-1,100
Rockford MSA	155,400	152,500	2,900
Springfield MSA	114,600	113,400	1,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	233,000	232,500	500
Illinois Statewide	6,029,900	5,986,800	43,100

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	July 2016	July 2015	Over-the- Year Change
Carbondale-Marion MSA	6.0%	6.2%	-0.2
Jackson County	5.7%	5.9%	-0.2
Williamson County	6.3%	6.5%	-0.2
Other Area Counties			
Alexander County	9.5%	9.9%	-0.4
Franklin County	8.2%	8.6%	-0.4
Johnson County	8.1%	8.9%	-0.8
Massac County	7.3%	8.2%	-0.9
Perry County	7.2%	7.6%	-0.4
Pulaski County	8.9%	9.8%	-0.9
Randolph County	5.0%	5.6%	-0.6
Union County	7.2%	7.7%	-0.5
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	8.0%	7.3%	0.7
Hamilton County	5.7%	5.3%	0.4
Hardin County	9.5%	9.2%	0.3
Pope County	7.4%	8.6%	-1.2
Saline County	8.2%	8.3%	-0.1
White County	6.4%	6.1%	0.3
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	5.3%	5.9%	-0.6
Lawrence County	7.5%	7.4%	0.1
Richland County	6.2%	5.9%	0.3
Wabash County	6.5%	6.0%	0.5
Wayne County	8.2%	7.1%	1.1

Southern Illinois Highlights

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in July 2016 in the Carbondale-Marion Metropolitan Statistical Area (Jackson and Williamson Counties). In July 2015, the rate was 6.2 percent. Stable labor market conditions dominated in the summer of 2016 in Southern Illinois.

Over the year, employment gains were reported in Retail Trade and Health Care Services. Payroll increases occurred in Professional-Business Services, Wholesale Trade, and Transportation. Employment expansions this summer were reported in Construction, Recreation, and Hospitality. Payrolls also increased in Other Services which includes auto and machinery repair and personal services. Mining, Manufacturing, Information and Government payrolls steadily declined in Southern Illinois.

Employment opportunities were available in Health Care, Transportation, and Sales in the summer of 2016. Job openings were advertised in Office and Administrative Support, Management, and Food Preparation occupations. Career prospects were favorable in Social Services, Business and Financial, Education, and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair. Workers were also needed for Production, Health Care Support, Construction, and Building and Ground Maintenance.

The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and seeking employment. A person who exhausts benefits, or is ineligible, still will be reflected in the unemployment rate if they actively seek work.

Note:

- Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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